

*APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION*

PLEASE NOTE THAT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.
INFORMATION IS REQUESTED TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS
FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS.

Name: Verna Wyatt

Date of Birth: 8/20/1952

Race: White Gender: Female

Office Address: You Have the Power, 2814 12th Avenue South, #211
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Office Phone: 615-292-7027

Facsimile: 615-292-4088

Email Address: verna.wyatt@yhpt.org

Home Address: [REDACTED]

County of Residence: Davidson

Home Phone: None

Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
MAY 1 2 201
AOC
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

1. Indicate your present employment.

Executive Director of You Have the Power, a crime victim advocacy non-profit organization since 1998.

2.
 - a. If you are an attorney, state the year you were licensed to practice law in Tennessee and provide your BPR Number.
N/A

- b. If you are an attorney, identify your primary subject area(s) of practice, present and past.

3. Please indicate the amount of time that you have been a citizen of the state of Tennessee. Since March 1974.

4. List the county or counties in which you have resided in the past year.
Davidson County since 1974

5. Are you a salaried office holder of the State of Tennessee or the United States?

☐ Yes



No

6. If your response to question 5 was yes, are you a member of the national guard, member of any armed forces reserve organization, district attorney general or employee of a district attorney general, district public defender or employee of a district public defender?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance? Give date, court, charge and disposition. NO

8. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details. NO

9. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission and why you would be an effective member. **(300 words or less)** As someone who has experienced violent crime personally, and as a well known victim advocate in Tennessee since 1991, I know all too well the importance of "quality" judges. I've seen judicial decisions and conduct that literally defy common sense, and I've seen judicial actions and decisions that have come from a place of integrity and a desire to uphold justice for all parties. Judges have power, and it is critical for the people who hold these positions to be the best and the brightest, but also they need to be individuals who possess wisdom and integrity. For victims of crime, and quite frankly, most of the general public, there is a high level of frustration and distrust for those who hold these judicial positions. For many years, this judicial selection commission was largely comprised of lawyers who came from legal defense backgrounds. There was little (if any) representation on this commission for victims of crime, or the general public, for that matter. I don't have a law degree, but I do know how victims of crime feel about judges, because they tell me almost every day. I know they pray for a judge with a good temperament, with integrity, with knowledge of the law, and they want a judge with wisdom who does not have "black robe disease". I applied for this position two years ago, never thinking I would be selected, but hoping I might. I believe I bring something different to this commission because I know victims and their issues. The current commission has only had the opportunity to come together a few times since my appointment, and I feel like I'm just getting started. I'd like to be reappointed so I can continue to be a voice for victims and the general public on this commission.

10. The Lieutenant Governor (Speaker of the Senate) and the Speaker of the House both have appointments to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Please indicate to which office you would like your application to be sent for consideration.

☐ Lieutenant Governor

☐ Speaker of the House

☒ Both Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House

11. I certify that all information contained in this application is correct.

☒ I am not employed as a lobbyist.

☒ I am not an employer of a lobbyist.

X

I do not hold office in any political party or political organization.

Dated this the 5th day of May, 2011.



Signature of Applicant